

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image output method comprising the steps of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having at least a portion of the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data for output by carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data ~~to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image;~~ and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

wherein the processed image data includes a portion of the equivalent original picture data read from the storage means that corresponds to the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image data, and

wherein the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the
processed image data geometrically agrees with the at least the portion of the
original picture in the initial image.

2. (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 1,
wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

3. (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 1, further
comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the
processed image data and/or on the print.

4. (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 2, further
comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the
processed image data and/or on the print.

5. (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in any one of
claims 1 to 4, further comprising the step of managing a copyright of the
original picture based on the ID information.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image output apparatus comprising:

reading means for obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having at least a portion of the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

storage means for storing a plurality of sets of original picture data in relation to ID information;

reading means for reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information of the original picture from the storage means;

processing means for obtaining processed image data for output by comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data ~~to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial stage;~~ and

output means for obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

wherein the processed image data includes a portion of the equivalent original picture data read from the storage means that corresponds to the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image data, and

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image output apparatus comprising:

reading means for obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having at least a portion of the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

storage means for storing a plurality of sets of original picture data in relation to ID information;

reading means for reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information of the original picture from the storage means;

processing means for obtaining processed image data for output by comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data ~~to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial stage;~~ and

output means for obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

wherein the processed image data includes a portion of the equivalent original picture data read from the storage means that corresponds to the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image data, and

wherein the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data geometrically agrees with the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image.

7. (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

8. (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

9. (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

10. (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in any one of claims 6 to 9, further comprising information management means for managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data for output by carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data ~~to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image;~~ and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

wherein the processed image data includes a portion of the equivalent original picture data read from the storage means that corresponds to the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image data, and

wherein the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data geometrically agrees with the at least the portion of the original picture in the initial image.

12. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

13. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 11, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

14. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 12, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

15. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of claims 11 to 14, the program further comprising the procedure of managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method to output image, comprising:
receiving a composition input data, wherein the composition input data includes an input image data, wherein the input image data includes at least a portion of an original picture data with ID information corresponding to the original picture data embedded therein;

extracting the ID information from the input image data;

retrieving from storage an original image data corresponding to the ID information, wherein the original image data includes the original picture data with the related ID information embedded therein;

composing an output image data for output such that the at least the portion of the original picture data of the input image data of the composition input data is replaced with a ~~matching~~ corresponding portion of the original image data retrieved from the storage in the output image data,

wherein the corresponding portion of the original image data of the output image data geometrically matches with the at least the portion of the original picture data in the input image data.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of composing includes:

extracting the ~~matching~~ portion of the original image data corresponding to the at least the portion of the original picture data in the input image data; and

replacing the at least the portion of the original picture data in the input image data of the composition input data with the ~~matching~~ corresponding portion of the original image data.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of extracting the ~~matching~~corresponding portion of the original image data includes:

pattern matching the original image data with the input image data.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of pattern matching includes one or more of scaling, rotating, cropping and translating.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the ID information is embedded in the original image data and the input image data in one or more subplanes, wherein a dimension of the original image data is $m \times n$ pixels, and wherein:

each subplane is composed of $p \times q$ pixels, $p < m$ and $q < n$, and

the subplanes are spaced apart a predetermined number of pixels from each other.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 20, wherein a bit value of the ID information is encoded in the subplanes.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 21, wherein the ID information is modulated on color channels of the original picture data.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, wherein the ID information is modulated onto lower bits of the color channels.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, wherein the color channels are R, G, and B.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the processed image data for output includes:

extracting a portion of the initial image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the processed image data for output such that the portion of the initial image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the processed image data.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the processing means is configured to extract a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture

data, and configured to compose the output image data for output such that the portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of obtaining the processed image data for output in the stored program includes:

extracting a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the output image data for output such that the portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of composing includes:

extracting a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the output image data for output such that the portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.

29. (NEW) The image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ID information is embedded within the equivalent original picture data stored in the storage means.

30. (NEW) The image output method as defined in claim 29, wherein the ID information is embedded within the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data.

31. (NEW) The image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein one or more portions of the initial image data other than the at least the portion of the original picture are reproduced in the processed image data.

32. (NEW) The image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein the processed image data are printed on a print medium with a copyguard feature.

33. (NEW) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the ID information is embedded within the equivalent original picture data stored in the storage means.

34. (NEW) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 33, wherein the ID information is embedded within the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data.

35. (NEW) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein one or more portions of the initial image data other than the at least the portion of the original picture are reproduced in the processed image data.

36. (NEW) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the processed image data are printed on a print medium with a copyguard feature.

37. (NEW) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the ID information is also embedded within the equivalent original picture data stored in the storage means.

38. (NEW) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 37, wherein the ID information is embedded within the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data.

39. (NEW) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 11, wherein one or more portions of the initial image data other than the at least the portion of the original picture are reproduced in the processed image data.

40. (NEW) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the processed image data are printed on a print medium with a copyguard feature.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the ID information is also embedded within the original image data stored in the storage.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 41, wherein the ID information is embedded within the corresponding portion of the original image data in the output image data.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein one or more portions of the composition input data other than the at least the portion of the original picture data are reproduced in the output image data.

44. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the output image data are printed on a print medium with a copyguard feature.